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Draft NCCP Habitat Types Proposed in the Conservation Strategy and Potential Alternative NCCP Habitat Types

Draft Conservation Strategy NCCP Habitat Types	Comments	Potential Alternative Covered Habitat Types	Description of Proposed NCCP Covered Habitats
Tidal perennial aquatic	No alternative proposed.	None.	Tidal perennial aquatic habitat is defined as deep water (greater than 3 meters in depth from mean low low tide) aquatic, shallow (less than or equal to 3 meters in depth from mean low low tide) aquatic, and unvegetated intertidal (i.e., tideflats) zones of estuarine bays, river channels, and sloughs.
Nontidal perennial aquatic	This habitat description overlaps with ERP riparian and riverine aquatic habitat types.	Lacustrine	Nontidal perennial aquatic habitat is defined as permanent bodies of water that do not support emergent vegetation and are not subject to tidal exchange, including lakes, ponds, oxbows, gravel pits, and flooded islands.
Delta sloughs	This habitat description overlaps with ERP tidal perennial aquatic; midchannel island and slough; and riparian and riverine aquatic habitat categories. It is recommended that this habitat type not be included as an NCCP covered habitat.		
Midchannel islands and sloughs	This habitat description overlaps with ERP Delta slough; tidal perennial aquatic; riparian and riverine aquatic habitat; and fresh emergent wetland categories. It is recommended that this habitat type not be included as an NCCP covered habitat.		

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Saline emergent wetland	This habitat description may be too inclusive because it does not discriminate among differing wildlife and ecological process attributes between tidal and nontidal wetlands and between estuarine and inland communities. It is recommended that this habitat type be subdivided.	Tidal saline emergent	Tidal saline emergent habitat is defined to include portions of the intertidal zones of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun Bays and the Delta that support saline tolerant emergent wetland plant species.
		Nontidal saline emergent	Nontidal saline emergent habitat is defined to include portions of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun Bays and the Delta that support saline tolerant wetland plant species on lands that historically were subject to tidal exchange.
Fresh emergent wetland	This habitat description may be too inclusive because it does not discriminate among differing wildlife and ecological process attributes between tidal and nontidal wetlands and between valley and montane communities. It is recommended that this habitat type be subdivided.	Tidal freshwater emergent	Tidal freshwater emergent habitat is defined to include portions of the intertidal zones of the Delta that support emergent wetland plant species that are not tolerant of saline or brackish conditions.
		Nontidal freshwater permanent emergent	Nontidal freshwater permanent emergent habitat is defined to include permanent (natural and managed) wetlands dominated by emergent wetland plant species that are not tolerant of saline or brackish conditions.

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Seasonal wetlands	This habitat description may be too inclusive because it does not discriminate between wetlands that function under natural versus managed hydrologic regimes. It is recommended that this habitat type be subdivided.	Natural seasonal wetland	Natural seasonal wetland habitat is defined to include vernal pools and other non-managed seasonal wetlands with natural hydrology that are dominated by herbaceous vegetation and annually pond surface water or maintain saturated soils at the ground surface for a portion of the year of sufficient duration to support facultative or obligate plant species.
		Managed seasonal wetland	Managed seasonal wetland habitat is defined to include wetlands dominated by native or non-native herbaceous plants, excluding croplands farmed for profit (e.g., corn and rice), that are flooded and drained by land managers during specific periods to enhance habitat values for specific wildlife species.
Riparian and riverine aquatic	This habitat description overlaps with ERP Delta slough; tidal perennial aquatic; and mid-channel island and slough categories and combines terrestrial and aquatic habitat types. It is recommended that this habitat type be subdivided.	Valley riverine aquatic	Valley riverine aquatic habitat is defined to include the water column of flowing streams and rivers in low-gradient channel reaches below approximately 300 feet in elevation that are not tidally influenced, including associated shaded riverine aquatic, pool, riffle, run, and unvegetated channel substrate (including seasonally exposed channel bed) habitat features, and sloughs, backwaters, overflow channels, and flood bypasses hydrologically connected to stream and river channels.

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Riparian and riverine aquatic (cont.)		Montane riverine aquatic	Montane riverine aquatic habitat is defined to include the water column of flowing streams and rivers above approximately 300 feet in elevation, including associated shaded riverine aquatic, pool, riffle, run, and unvegetated channel substrate (including seasonally exposed channel bed) habitat features, and sloughs, backwaters, and overflow channels hydrologically connected to stream and river channels.
		Valley/foothill riparian	Valley/foothill riparian habitat is defined to include all successional stages of woody vegetation generally dominated by willow, Fremont cottonwood, valley oak, or sycamore within the active and historical floodplains of low-gradient reaches of streams and rivers generally below 300 feet in elevation.
		Montane riparian	Montane riparian habitat is defined to include all successional stages of woody vegetation such as willow, black cottonwood, white alder, birch, and dogwood within the active floodplains of moderate to high gradient reaches of streams and rivers generally above 300 feet in elevation.

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Perennial grassland	This habitat description may be too specific relative to the number of actions that may affect it. It is recommended that this habitat type be combined with annual grassland.	Grassland	Grassland habitat is defined to include vegetation communities dominated by introduced and native annual and perennial grasses, including unirrigated and irrigated pasture lands.
Annual grassland	This habitat description could be broadened to include perennial grassland. It is recommended that this habitat type be combined with perennial grassland.		
Inland dune scrub	No alternative proposed.	None	Inland dune scrub habitat consists of vegetated stabilized sand dunes associated with river and estuarine systems.
Upland scrub	No alternative proposed.	None	Upland scrub habitat is defined to include habitat areas that are dominated by shrubs characteristic of coastal scrub and chaparral communities.
Upland woodland		Valley/foothill woodland	Valley/foothill woodland habitat is defined to include vegetation communities with an overstory canopy layer dominated by valley oak, blue oak, interior live oak, coast live oak, and/or foothill pine.
Upland forest		Montane forest	Montane forest habitat is defined to include vegetation communities with an overstory canopy layer dominated by pine, fir, cedar, and/or black oak.
No equivalent habitat description proposed in draft Conservation Strategy.		Upland cropland	Upland cropland is defined to include agricultural lands farmed for grain, field, truck, and other crops that are not seasonally flooded.

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No equivalent habitat description proposed in draft Conservation Strategy.		Seasonally flooded agriculture	Seasonally flooded agriculture is defined to include agricultural lands farmed for grain, field, truck, rice, and other crops that require seasonal flooding for durations of a least 1 week as a management practice (e.g., pest control and irrigation) or are purposefully flooded seasonally to enhance habitat values for specific wildlife species (e.g., duck clubs).
No equivalent habitat description proposed in draft Conservation Strategy.		Orchards and vineyards	Orchards and vineyard is defined to include agricultural lands farmed for fruits, nuts, and grapes.

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